



# THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

*Brooksville church of Christ*  
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

April 10, 2022

## Your Wreckage Can Be Repaired (Gary Henry)

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life” (1 Timothy 1:15-16).

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, SAUL OF TARSUS BECAME A RADICALLY DIFFERENT MAN. The change was not superficial or temporary; it was deep and lasting. And later, writing now as Paul the apostle, he could offer himself as an example to prove just how sinful a person can be and still be saved by the gospel: “I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those

who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”

If the prosecutor’s charge is that a truly wicked person can never change, Paul is “Exhibit A” to the contrary. He is a courage-giving “pattern” to anyone who has ever worried that they might be a

hopeless case or a lost cause.

Most people, if they’re honest, know what it’s like to struggle with deeply ingrained

character flaws. As we struggle to remove these flaws, we become frustrated. In time, we may come to doubt that real change is even possible.

Sometimes we start thinking that way because we’ve been influenced by DETERMINISM, which says that at birth we are already “determined”; whatever we “are,” that’s what we’ll always “be.” At other times, we may be plagued with a VICTIM MENTALITY. We see ourselves as the victims of circumstances and influences that are more than we can handle.





(Luke 17:3,4). The next statement of the apostles was “Increase our faith” (v. 5).

The Lord’s reply was not what we might expect. He did not go into a discussion of how faith should grow, but said: “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you” (v. 6).

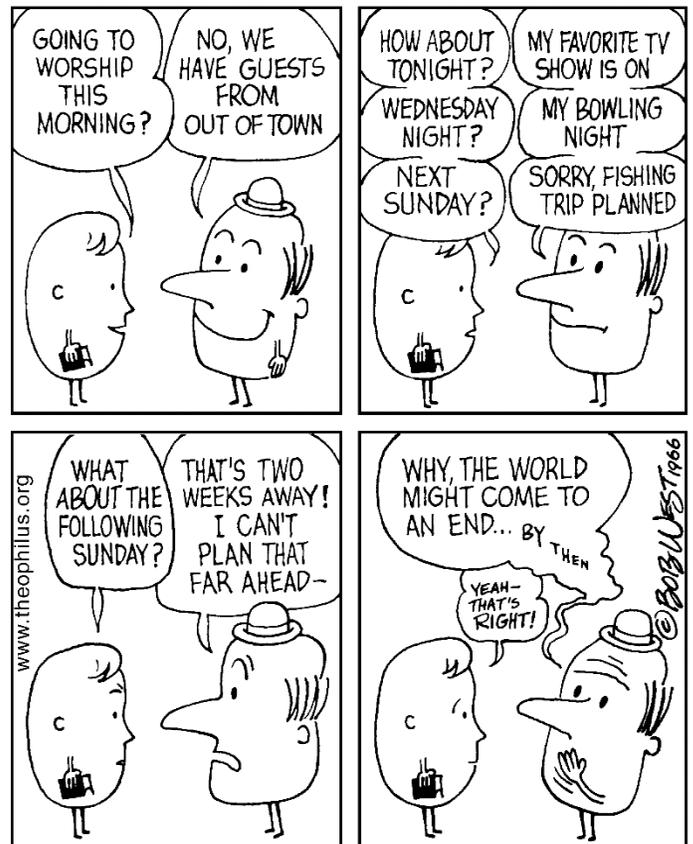
The power of faith is not in a powerful faith, but in a powerful God. If the faith is in the right source, it will not take much. In fact, Jesus said “as a mustard seed,” and that is not very great!

When Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel, he showed faith in a great God, “one who answers by fire” (1 Kings 6:11). Later, his faith in God was overcome by his fear of Jezebel and he asked to die (1 Kings 19:4).

Elisha, who took the place of Elijah, showed a God-centered faith in dealing with the Syrians. When the Syrians would make a move, Elisha would tell the king of Israel where they were. The king of Syria asked, “Will you not show me which of us is for the king of Israel?” (2 Kings. 6:11). One of the servants said, “None, my lord, O king, but

## THEOPHILUS

No Free Time



Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom” (v. 12). God is not only omnipotent, but also omniscient.

When the Syrian army surrounded Dothan, one of Elisha’s servants asked, “Alas, my master! What shall we do? So he answered, Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them” (2 Kings 6:15,16). Who was with Elisha? The Lord! He simply asked the Lord to strike them with blindness and led them into Samaria, the capital of Israel and then asked for their sight to be restored.

Imagine how they felt! But, Elisha fed them and sent them back to their master. “So the bands of Syrian raiders came no more into the land of Israel” (2 Kings. 6:23). The great God had responded to a small faith.



We need to strengthen our faith, but more than that, we need to have our faith in the right place. Jesus said, "if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, move from here to there, it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20). We do not have to wait until we have a great faith to overcome "mountains" that obstruct us, but we do need trust in the great God that we serve.

## Faith Not Feelings

(J. Bate)

To depend upon feelings in religion is unsafe and dangerous. A man may as well think of holding fast to the clouds, building upon running sand, or relying on the wind. The clouds, the sand, the wind, are no more changeable and uncertain than feelings. A change in circumstances or a change in fields will often produce an equal change

in feelings. Our religion should be like the sun, cloud or no cloud, go on in its shining course; like the earth, wind or no wind, roll on its orbits; we should "stand by faith," "live by faith," and "hold fast the profession of our faith."



Augustine (A.D. 354-430) said, "God wants to give us something, but cannot, because our hands are full – there's nowhere for him to put it." When we feel as though God's blessings are missing from our lives, we need to examine our hands and see if they are open to receive or clutched around something that we refuse to let go. (*The Problem of Pain*, C. S. Lewis, 1962. p. 96)

### Brooksville Church of Christ

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#### Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

*Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:*

☞ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida

☞ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri

☞ The saints in Nicaragua

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